

The NATURE

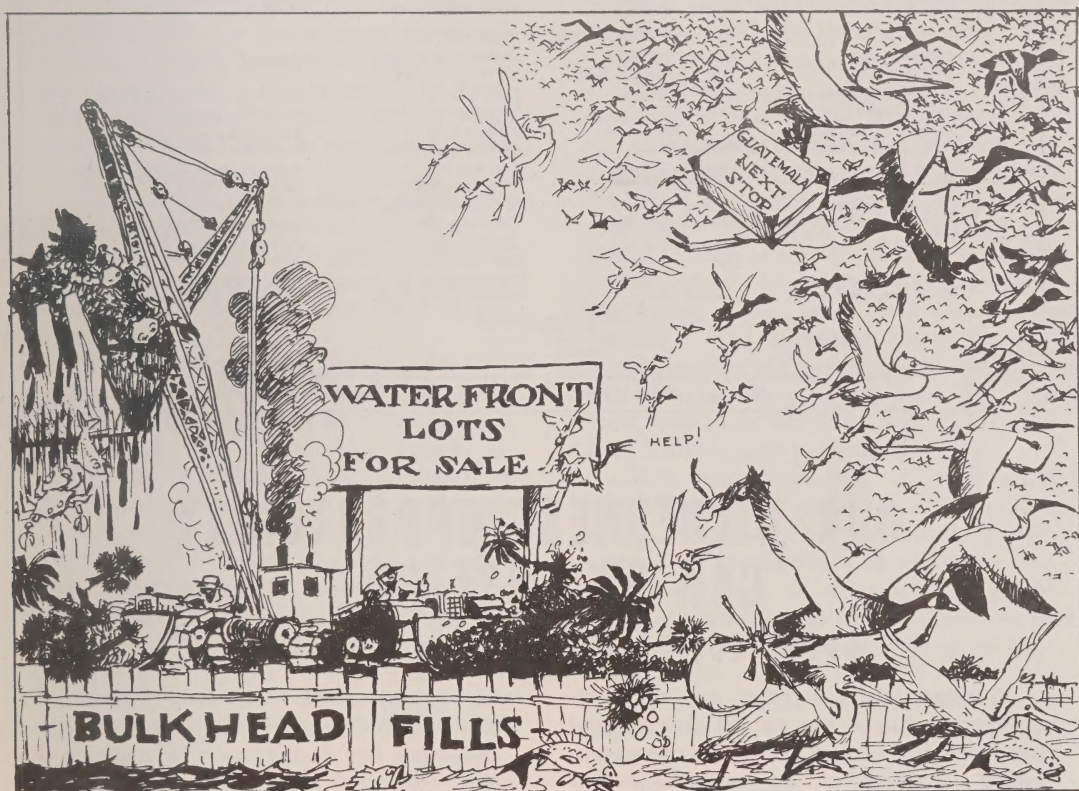


Conservancy News

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"When we get to Guatemala, send a wire to the rest of the family to skip USA – it's all torn up that way!"

Our newest member, J. N. "Ding" Darling, noted conservationist and cartoonist, sent us the above cartoon with his membership check. The Editor supplied the caption.

We are proud to welcome Ding to membership in The Nature Conservancy. He wrote that it was probably the only conservation organization he did not belong to, and regretted the long over-sight. We are happy to have him; and happy, indeed, to join countless others in congratulations to him on his birthday, celebrated recently in Des Moines. May he live to join a score or more new conservation organizations in the future!

The NATURE Conservancy News

A Publication of the Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific objective is to preserve natural areas as "living museums." Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational and aesthetic values. They provide a home for many living things that would otherwise be destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946, the Ecologists Union was formed to take over the task. In 1950 the name was changed to The Nature Conservancy; incorporation in the District of Columbia took place in 1951.

Nature Conservancy now has a national membership of approximately 4,000. It operates through a series of chapters, of which 19 have been organized to date. It has acquired, by gift or purchase 34 nature preserves in 11 states, having an area of some 6,400 acres. These range in size from one acre to 3,000 acres. Nature Conservancy is now actively working toward the acquisition of additional natural areas in five additional states, the total area of which is about 10,000 acres.

The members of the Nature Conservancy invite you to join in its work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. A contribution of \$5.00 or more entitles you to annual membership, one of \$200 or more to life membership, and one of \$1,000 or more to patron membership. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

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OUR WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITY CAN WE LOSE IT ?

GUEST EDITORIAL by Howard Zahniser

Readers of this page are the custodians of one of the superlatively great opportunities of our history — the opportunity to establish an enduring policy and program for the preservation of wilderness. Yet we are in grave danger of losing this opportunity before it is even recognized or understood.

We — the readers of this page — are the generation of preservationists who now comprise the National Parks Association, Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club. The Wilderness Society and other organizations concerned with parks, wilderness, refuges, and all the various remaining places that are natural, unspoiled, wild and unalienated. We are the mid-Twentieth-Century Americans who have in part inherited, in part created this chance to fashion, in the midst of a

highly organized, mechanized, urbanized culture, enduring policies and effective programs for preserving wilderness. We are the custodians of a perishable, diminishing, unique opportunity.

The opportunity, it must be emphasized, is simply to preserve wilderness. If the opportunity is lost, the ultimate loss will be wilderness. The issue is not whether we shall have parks, or wildlife refuges, or outdoor-recreation areas in forests or parks. The question is: Will there live on in any of these areas what we know as wilderness? Or shall we, not recognizing the jeopardy of our peculiar opportunity, see ourselves and our successors satisfied with a continued partitioning of our areas of wilderness, an increasing use of them in ways that

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SPREADING THE GOSPEL

Nine members of The Nature Conservancy have been in the news recently. They have been writing, speaking, reporting or otherwise spreading the gospel of nature preservation.

Our new president, Alexander B. Adams, is author of an article in the July, 1960, issue of *American Forests*, published by the American Forestry Association, Washington, D. C.

Excerpts from this article are reprinted elsewhere in this issue as a good case history of how a natural area can be preserved. He writes about "The Hemlocks of Mianus Gorge", a few miles from New York City, on the Connecticut-New York line.

Likewise, a short address before the New Hampshire Academy of Science, May 21, by New Hampshire member Henry I. Baldwin, was a concise statement of activities in New Hampshire.

"The Romance of a Road", by Mrs. Allan F. Kitchel, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, appears in the July-August 1960, issue of *Connecticut Woodlands*, published in Wallingford, Connecticut and traces the history of the Merritt Parkway across Fairfield County. The fight by garden club members and other conservationists to intelligently plan the highway landscape — protecting swamps, using native materials, banning unsightly billboards — is well told by Mrs. Kitchel, a Nature Conservancy member and board member of The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut.

Former Nature Conservancy President Richard Pough writes in the *Maryland Conservationists* for May-June, 1960, about the necessity to "Save That Swamp!"

"Marshes and swamps act as 'safety valves', filling with water during periods of peak rainfall — water which they slowly and automatically feed into the river as it rids itself of its overload and its level falls. Where many such 'safety valves' were part of the original equilibrium, river channels are never very deep or wide, as the run-off from even a heavy storm could be handled with only a moderate increase in stream flow.

"Any attempt to solve the problem of

increased run-off by local channel enlargement is anti-social. It only shifts the burden of handling the extra water on those downstream, aggravating problems they already face. Clearly, the only sound solution is to retain and if possible increase the temporary storage capacity of every swamp and marsh.

"Channel deepening or, if the head is low, channel widening is expensive and requires continual maintenance to keep silt from reducing their capacity. The purchase of swamps and marshes and flood plain areas subject to frequent flooding is invariably far cheaper and the enlargement of their temporary storage capacity is inexpensive and involves little or no maintenance. Such areas also serve many other community purposes. First of all, they tend to promote in-soak that comes with urbanization of the upland. As 'green belt' areas they preserve the semi-rural character of a region and except during occasional short periods when they are flooded, they provide recreation for those who enjoy wildlife, walking and horseback riding.

"The cost of such land is trivial by comparison with what we are spending on highways, schools and other improvements. It is also trivial when one considers the cost of alternatives such as channel enlargement or the cost of the floods that will occur if nothing is done. Should the acquisition of such land necessitate the incurring of some bonded indebtedness, it is hard to imagine a more legitimate reason for going into debt as the maximum benefits from public ownership of such lands will be enjoyed by coming generations who will be living in an even more intensively developed landscape than today's."

A historic preservation effort by The Nature Conservancy came to fruition recently when the Department of the Interior recently created the Great Falls National Historic Park at Great Falls, Virginia on the Potomac River.

Board member Dr. J. Raymond Fosberg and member C. J. S. Durham recently appeared before a McLean, Virginia Lions Club dinner to describe the project. They also invited Ray Freeman, advance planning officer of National Capital Parks, a

subsidiary of the National Park Service to explain the current status of the project.

The historic tract is being leased from Potomac Electric Power Company. The Government has an option to buy the park, but lacks Congressional authority to do so.

Mr. Freeman said that the agency is in no rush to begin development of the park. Long-range use will be determined only after further consultation with other agencies, including the Fairfax County Park Authority and community organizations, Mr. Freeman said.

Dr. Fosberg said that in 20 years in this area, he has found no other place of botanical interest that would compare with Great Falls. The "larger portion" of the 800-acre tract, Dr. Fosberg said, is to be preserved as a natural area for all time — a "living museum" and "out-door laboratory."

Mr. Durham of Leigh Mill Road, long active in the campaign for preservation of the Great Falls area as a park, referred to the historic background of the tract along the Potomac River.

No other area in the Nation, other than Mount Vernon, is more intimately associated with George Washington, Mr. Durham said. The first president "not only slept there, but held meetings there, canoed there and surveyed there", he added.

Asked about proposed extension of the George Washington Parkway to Great Falls, Mr. Freeman said there are no firm plans. He said a Senate committee had agreed that the highway would be back from the river to avoid spoiling the "palisades," but that maps showing the proposed extension are results of a staff study that has not been approved officially.

The final product, Mr. Freeman said, might be improvement of Old Georgetown Pike (Route 193) between the Capital Beltway and Great Falls.

Nature Conservancy member William A. Niering, associate professor of botany at Connecticut College, New London, is the author of a lavishly-illustrated report called "Nature In The Metropolis". It is the third in a series of reports published by the Park, Recreation and Open Space Project of the Tri-State New York Metropolitan Region, and published by the

Regional Plan Association, Inc., 230 West 41st Street, New York 36, N. Y. at \$3.00.

Others in the series are: "The Law of Open Space", by Shirley Adelson Siegel; "The Dynamics of Park Demand", by Marion Clawson of The Resources for the Future Foundation; and "The Race For Open Space", final report of the project.

Dr. Niering's volume describes the unique, yet often neglected natural qualities of the New York metropolitan region and demonstrates why it is important to conserve them. Excellent photographs, maps, charts, and text cover the Atlantic Ocean, the beaches and dunes, salt marshes and bogs, the upland farmlands and woodlands and answers the question: Why Conservation? under four headings — recreation and pleasure; study and enlightenment, the protection of commercial fishing resources, and combatting floods, water shortages and air pollution. There are dramatic before-and-after pictures showing of the last remaining bit of nature in a heavily built up portion of Nassau County, New York. Dr. Niering quotes from the Nature Conservancy that "Every untouched natural or wild area that can be saved from exploitation gives tomorrow's generations a living museum as a link to America's past."

Nature Conservancy member Joseph Caponferri has just had his first book published by Vantage Press, 120 West 31st Street, N. Y. The title is "Rich Is the Earth".

In impressionistic and poetic prose, Mr. Caponferri communicates the richness of the scene about us: the ballet of leaves, the enduring colors of tree and hillside after the first frosts, and the gradually subdued hues of autumn, which is "a reaching for life — and a losing of it".

The book's rich imagery reminds us to take time out to see the lovely things about us.

Dr. Thomas Morley, of the botany department of the University of Minnesota, has published an excellent article "Uses and Values of Natural Areas." It spells out concisely but completely, the wide variety of social values resulting from natural areas, and points out the varieties of areas needed. Reprints of this article are available through the national office.

NEWS OF NATURAL AREAS

Chapter Notes

Western New York Chapter Secretary Wendel Danielson reports that at a meeting on July 14, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Ulrich, Buffalo, N. Y., the Chapter accepted as a local project about 75 acres of woodland in the Town of Persia, N. Y., Cattaraugus County, to be donated to The Nature Conservancy by Miss Evelyn E. Alverson and Mr. S. G. Alverson.

The Minnesota Chapter feels encouraged over progress made during the past year, according to an August 31, report by W. H. Tusler, Chairman.

Membership has increased from 50 to 61 paid-up members. There are strong chairmen for all committees, except finance and management. Thanks to Mr. Richard Pough, former Nature Conservancy president, representatives of garden clubs of Minnetonka and St. Paul are working with the Minnesota Chapter.

Dr. Donald Lawrence, publicity Chairman, sent to 600 newspapers the recent Reader's Digest article, together with one by Sigurd Olson, trustee, former head of the National Parks Association.

Also sent to Chapter members was an article by Dr. Morley on "Uses and Values of Natural Areas".

Mr. Tusler is the one who secured "Ding" Darling's membership, noted elsewhere in this issue.

Rane L. Curl, 122 Strathmoor Drive, Berkeley, California, reports on Black Chasm Cave, near the town of Volcano, Amador County, California. The one-surface acre cave's ecological importance must be studied and mapped. Interested scientists are needed for some of the work.

The National Speleological Society plans a preservation project for the cave as a model for one approach to protection of valuable caves.

Efforts to save "the last of the beautiful unspoiled areas only 80 miles from Boston"—an island in Lake Nubanusit—seem well on the way to success.

The Nature Conservancy project is called the Louis Cabot Preserve. It is near Nelson and Hancock, New Hamp-

shire. The public lake landing is at Hancock, 10 miles from Peterborough and 25 miles from Keene.

This 400-acre, uninhabited island separates relatively undeveloped Nubanusit Lake, whose water is allegedly clear and pure enough to drink, from smaller Spoonwood Lake, which doesn't have a house or dock to mar its lovely shore.

The project committee, with Mr. George K. Ripley as chairman, is negotiating with Dr. Lloyd Cabot Briggs for purchase of half the Island at the Hancock end for Nature Conservancy. A lease on the other half of the Island with an option to buy at the end of a four-year period is the goal. The purchase price is \$50,000 for half the property and \$50,000 in four years. An additional \$25,000 is necessary to cushion the tax loss to Nelson and Hancock.

The Ohio Chapter moved with all expeditious speed to acquire recently 62 acres known as Buzzard Roost Rock.

The July, 1960, newsletter of the Ohio Chapter covers the thrilling way Ohians moved to preserve this natural area.

The Ohio Chapter got its second project and had it completed, bought and paid for even before all the formal wheels could turn. Buzzard's Roost Rock, a unique area which has been known as such longer than most any other spot suddenly became available early in May. The greatest of speed was needed throughout since less than two months were available to complete the purchase. Thanks to the activities of the vigorous members in the Cincinnati area surveys were made, funds raised and transferred, all within the time limit. Particular thanks are due to Mr. C. A. Eulett of Otway, to two Cincinnatians Dr. E. Lucy Braun and Mrs. Ruth McCammon and to the garden clubs (Garden Club of Cincinnati, Town & Country Garden Club of Cincinnati, Indian Hill Garden Club of Cincinnati) who made the purchase possible.

Some 62 acres were included in the tract which is best described in the words of Dr. E. Lucy Braun:

"The focal point of Buzzard's Roost Rock is the high Silurian dolomite promontory rising vertically above the steep forested slopes below. The Buzzard's Roost Rock itself is separated from the adjacent cliff-bordered ridge (of which it is the western end) by a narrow cleft 50 feet deep. Geologically, it is of interest because it is a remnant of

a pre-Illinoian divide which extended on westward high above the present valley of Ohio Brush Creek. With the ponding of glacial melt-water to the north of this divide and in major streams as well (particularly in the pre-Pleistocene Teays valley), cols were broken and the present drainage lines established. Ohio Brush Creek, which now flows southward at the foot of the long slope from Buzzard's Roost Rock, came into existence and lowered its channel as the new Ohio River, which broke through the Manchester col, was carving and lowering its valley. Three hundred feet above the present Ohio Brush Creek is a narrow dolomite terrace, a remnant of a pre-Illinoian creek-bed, and its bordering undercut cliffs, above which the cliffs of Buzzard's Roost Rock rise abruptly.

"The flat-topped rock, 81 by 36 feet in area, a remnant of the divide, is now 400 feet above the stream at its base, instead of only 100 feet, as before the col was cut. On this flat top, are a few stunted but old trees, and a small Andropogon-Bouteloua prairie with about a score of herbaceous species, well over 50 per cent of which are prairie plants and two of which, *Arenaria stricta texana* and *Liatris cylindracea*, are decided disjuncts.

"In 1838, John Locke, then assistant state geologist of Ohio, in the course of reconnaissance survey of Adams County, described this rock and listed its plants. Its recorded geologic and botanic history thus goes back almost a century and a quarter.

"Among the more interesting plants of the area are the Carolina buckthorn, here close to the northern limits of its range, the many xeric plants of the Rock and the prairie-ravine, the rock-ferns — walking fern, wall-rue, cliff-brake (both *Pellaea glabella* and *atropurpurea*), bulblet-fern, and (just outside the area) gray polypody. Among the rocks are prairie violets (*V. pedatifida*) and, locally, the

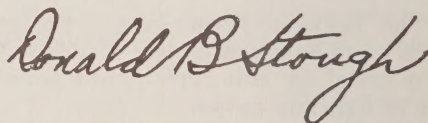
crested coral-root (*Hexalectris spicata*). The rich soil of the woods, derived from dolomites and calcareous shales, supports a rich herbaceous flora.

"Buzzards regularly nest in the cleft between the Rock and the adjacent ridge of which it is the jutting end. Fossil corals from a Silurian coral-reef may be seen in the lower part of the cliff."

Not all of us can visualize a setting from the scientific description, so the best way to peruse this area is to turn south from Ohio 125 just east of Ohio Brush Creek between West Union and Lynx and follow County Road C-5 7/10th of a mile. Park just off the road and follow the steep land and paths running uphill and generally to the east.

ACTION NOW

Coincident with this issue of *Nature Conservancy News* in its new format members will receive notice of "Operation '65" which is requesting members to pledge to maintain their Conservancy membership through 1965 and to get a new member each year. These are the crucial years; every added voice will swell the chorus calling for action now to save "America the Beautiful."



Donald B. Stough
Executive
Director

The HEMLOCKS of MIANUS GORGE

by Alexander A. Adams

Just a few miles from New York City, on the Connecticut-New York line, is an ancient stand of hemlock trees, some of them many feet in diameter and a number of them more than three hundred years old. Growing on the steep slopes of the Mianus River, which winds through the countryside toward Long Island Sound, they contrast sharply with the second growth common in the surrounding suburbs and form an island of climax forest in the midst of the expanding metropolitan area.

Here, especially on weekends, come people from nearby communities to see how the forest once looked. Children from Brooklyn and the Bronx, whose knowledge of the outdoors has been limited to city playgrounds and cement sidewalks, make their first acquaintance with America's wilderness. Others, who have had more opportunity to study nature, find among the trees of Mianus relief from the city's tensions. Sitting on a fallen log and listening to the wind in the upper boughs of the hemlocks or the creaking of two trees rubbing against each other in a summer breeze, they wander again in the deeper forests that they may have visited in the past.

How the trees came to exist at the edge of the Mianus River depends, therefore, on how the history of the region is read; but there they grew, protected by the inaccessibility of the steep slopes above the river. While more level farming and building sites were available, there was no point in clearing land as rugged as this. So, over the years, many nearby residents came to know and love the hemlocks. On their free days, they wandered under the hemlocks' heavy shadows and felt underfoot the soft cushion of centuries of needles. Occasionally, they said that something should be done to preserve the trees for future generations.

Mrs. Anthony Anable, who lived with her husband in nearby Stamford, Connecticut, was one of those that loved the hemlocks of Mianus, but she realized that time was running out. With the post-

war expansion of the New York City suburbs, it would only be a question of a few years before the hemlocks fell to the onslaught of the bulldozer. Consequently, she assumed the seemingly impossible job of joining together the many people who had expressed an interest in the area and translating that interest into steps that would make the protection of the hemlocks possible. One evening, at a party, she met Robert Hamerslag, also a nearby resident and another of the gorge's admirers. From him, she obtained the name of James Todd, who was familiar with most of the landowners in the area and could tell her who held title to various sections of the gorge. With these two men, who were willing to give her time and help, she now had a nucleus of well-informed people enlisted in her cause.

Her next step was to gain the endorsement of a group of scientists. There was no question about the aesthetic worth of saving the hemlocks, but she knew that her case with the public and with interested landowners would be greatly strengthened if she could show that the undertaking also had scientific value. So, in December, 1953, she led a group of carefully-chosen men through the gorge. Among them was Richard H. Pough, author of the Audubon Bird Guides, an ecologist and, at that time, president of The Nature Conservancy, an organization concerned with preserving natural areas.

The reaction of the group to Mrs. Anable's proposal was enthusiastic. As Mr. Pough later said, "We know of no other comparable tract of what appears to be virgin, or at least mature, forest anywhere in southwestern Connecticut or in fact in the entire New York City region."

Encouraged by their approval, which heightened her own previous beliefs, Mrs. Anable tried to decide which pieces of land should be purchased first, how much they would cost, and whether the money could be raised. Even a cursory

survey showed that the heart of the proposed refuge should be a sixty-acre tract that lay along the river. It contained the largest hemlocks and was essential to the undertaking.

But before her plans for acquiring this tract were completed, the first of a series of crises confronted Mrs. Anable. In the local newspapers appeared a small notice that a water company intended to dam the Mianus River below the gorge and create a reservoir. If this plan went through, the gorge would be lost.

Little could be done in Connecticut, where the dam would be built, but because the reservoir would cross the state line into New York, the water company had to secure the permission of the New York Water and Power Control Commission. Public hearings were scheduled for March and April, 1954.

Mrs. Anable and Mr. Todd undertook the task of appearing before the Commission and objecting to the reservoir. But first, they sent out urgent appeals to nearby Audubon and garden clubs, as well as other conservation groups, so that when they testified before the commission they spoke as representatives of large numbers of residents.

Knowing that their efforts to save the gorge and its trees should not be limited to blind opposition, they spent many long hours in preparation, studying alternative sites as well as the present and future requirements of the district to be served by the reservoir. In the end, they were not successful in preventing the erection of the dam; but their arguments against it had been sufficiently well informed to make the commission take two important steps. First, it limited the height to which the water could be raised. Second, it granted permission to the water company on one specific condition: "This land," said the commission, "must be used for water supply purposes only and so far as shall be consistent with such use; the said land shall forever be kept in its natural state."

Then on New Year's Eve, 1954, Mrs. Anable's telephone rang. The owner of the essential 60 acres wanted to speak to her. A real estate developer, it seemed, was also interested in buying the land and was pressing for an answer. However, if Mrs. Anable wanted it, she

could have it for \$30,000, the first payment to be ten per cent of the final price. But, said the landowner, an acceptance or refusal had to be made immediately.

This was another crisis for Mrs. Anable. New Year's was not the ideal time to raise \$3,000 in cash and the promise of \$27,000 more, but she undertook to do it. Three admirers of the gorge were willing to sign personal notes for a thousand dollars each, so that the down payment could be borrowed from a bank. Furthermore, they expressed confidence that somehow or other the remaining payments could be raised, although they were not certain where or how. Anyway, there was no time to quibble or be cautious. Let's go ahead, they said. And they did.

Now \$3,000 in debt and with another payment due only a short time off, the effort to save the trees at Mianus Gorge seemed doomed. However, Richard H. Pough, one of the scientists who had visited the gorge with Mrs. Anable, came to the rescue. As president of The Nature Conservancy, he interested that organization in advancing \$7,500 from its loan fund. In addition, by becoming an official undertaking of the Conservancy, Mrs. Anable's group was able to obtain tax exemption.

This assistance provided the effort to save the trees at Mianus with a new lease on life. There was now time to conduct a fund-raising drive. Meanwhile, several newspapers had printed stories about the gorge, and a brochure had been prepared and distributed to members of Audubon and garden clubs within the area. As a result, money gradually began to come in.

In Greenwich, Connecticut, the Garden Club offered to make the gorge the subject of its annual fund-raising exhibit. Although the money was not actually raised until several months later, it amounted to a total of \$12,000. This and other contributions made it possible not only to buy the first land, but also to repay The Nature Conservancy's loan within a year. Becoming enthusiastic over the project, some of the people who owned land near the gorge gave additional acreage. (The owner of the original 60 acres contributed another ten and has

been a helpful supporter of the group's work ever since.) Altogether, the gifts received have made possible the acquisition of another 98 acres and the beginnings of an endowment fund.

Much work remains to be done before the hemlocks are fully protected. At least 25 to 30 additional acres are needed, and more donations are required to complete the endowment fund. Nevertheless, the originators of the efforts to save the trees can look back on their accomplishments with satisfaction. Trails have been built through the area, a warden-naturalist is on duty weekends (because of the gorge's proximity to the city, one is needed all year round), a natural history exhibit has been constructed at the parking lot and — most important of all — the giant hemlocks have been saved.

But perhaps the real accomplishment

lies in the reactions of the thousands of visitors who walk the forest floor every day. The boy from the Bronx is noisy walking into the woods; on the return trail, he is silent. The biology class from a neighboring high school sees that the wilderness is more than an illustration in a textbook. The birdwatcher, swinging his glasses upward as he catches the sound of an unrecognized song, feels free of the pressures that have haunted him all week.

The preservation of the hemlocks at Mianus Gorge is not only a triumph of aesthetics over practicality, of scientific needs over the physical requirements of our civilization; it is also an adventure in human values, in giving people an insight into the world from which they came and the peace that can be found in rediscovering it.

WILDLIFE SERVICE OPPOSES BRUCES EDDY DAM AUTHORIZATION

Authorization of Bruce Eddy dam on the North Fork of the Clearwater River in Idaho is opposed "at this time" by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service because of "the serious impact it would have on fish and wildlife resources," according to the Wildlife Management Institute, Washington, D. C.

The big dam, which has been proposed as part of a development plan for the Middle Snake River Tributaries of Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington by the Army Corps of Engineers, failed to win authorization several times in recent years. One argument used against the 570-foot structure was that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service had not completed its required study of the project's effect on fish and wildlife resources in the Clearwater area. The project has been recommended for flood control, power generation, and navigation, with the navigation benefits consisting of providing sufficient water to float logs to a sawmill on the Clearwater River for at least nine months a year.

Construction and operation of Bruce Eddy dam and reservoir would "either

inundate, isolate, or cause irreparable damage to all steelhead trout and chinook salmon spawning habitat in the North Fork Clearwater Basin," the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has found. "About...45 percent of the spawning habitat available in the drainage would be lost by inundation...and without fish-passage facilities...54 percent would be isolated upstream from the impoundment. Steelhead fishing would be eliminated in the drainage, sport catch in the Clearwater and Columbia Rivers reduced...and the drainage's contribution to commercial catches in the Lower Columbia River would be lost."

The Clearwater elk herd, estimated between 35,000 to 40,000 head, is one of the largest in the nation. Many of these elk and white-tailed and mule deer depend on the brushy river banks during severe winters as a last-ditch feeding area. "Elk...would be substantially reduced in number if the project were constructed," the Service reports. "The number of deer within the project would be about 40 percent less...."

ANNUAL MEETING AT STILLWATER

Highlights of the annual membership and Board of Directors meeting at Stillwater, Oklahoma, August 29-30, 1960, included the following:

--Officers and new Board members were elected; their names are to be found elsewhere in this issue.

--The Conservancy invited use of Conservancy-owned natural areas by various scientific organizations, particularly the Ecological Society, with due regard for the objectives of the Conservancy and proper protection of the areas.

--Report by Executive Director Stough that eight natural areas were acquired, four enlarged, 25 new projects approved, and three dropped, with Conservancy co-operation in preservation of four projects. The Conservancy has a total of 76 projects in 25 States. An additional 40 projects, as yet unapproved, are in various stages of acquisition. The inventory listing of natural areas has been doubled to a total of 3,000.

The eight new areas are: Black Chasm Cave, California; Burnham Brook and Mystic Lands, Connecticut; Carsons-hurst and Heyer Woods, Missouri; Little Bear Swamp and Tommy Thurber Memorial, New York; and Buzzardroost Rock, Ohio.

The four older natural areas whose sizes were increased were Mianus Gorge, New York; Walcott Preserve, Connecticut; Pine Hills, Indiana; and Delafield Woods, New York.

The Nature Conservancy now has 19 chapters, compared with 13 a year ago; two more are probable during the next few months. In addition, there are four subsidiary corporations and one cooperating group, the Michigan Natural Areas Council.

--The Board of Directors approved a \$3000 loan to acquire the 75-acre Alverson Tract in Cattaraugus County, New York; and the 228-acre Goodemote property, to be included under a joint name.

--The Board also approved establishment of the 1500-acre Orono Bog Nature Preserve near Orono, Penobscot County, Maine. The total campaign goal is \$10,000.

--Also authorized was establishment of a Florida chapter.

--The Board instructed the Executive Director to issue minutes of annual general membership meetings upon request, and to issue a notice to this effect through the Nature Conservancy News.

Some of the highlights of the panel discussion of August 29 on "Need for The Nature Conservancy in the Southern Grassland Region" at the annual meeting of The Nature Conservancy, are given below.

Dr. H. Raymond Gregg, of the Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, pointed out the need for a master plan, a set of criteria, and a program of action with The Nature Conservancy organized regionally.

Dr. Lloyd C. Hulbert, of Kansas State University, pictured the need for a large area of possibly 100,000 acres in the grasslands so that the large herbivores and their predators could be preserved. He pointed out possible methods of using small preserves and intermediate ones, the latter, up to 10,000 acres, capable of sustaining large herbivores in controlled numbers.

Dr. William H. Elder, of the University of Missouri, described the various types of prairie and the need for schools and clubs to have areas of this sort where a knowledge of this flora could be easily acquired. He pointed out the need for a fuller study of animals and botanical cover.

Dr. Harriet Barclay, of Tulsa University, showed how little attention has been paid to grassland preservation and pointed out that only two of thirty-four Conservancy projects in 1959, were grassland preserves. She discussed the need for small and large preserves and mentioned the 13 acre preserve of the University of Oklahoma at Norman along with the grassland studies and publications of the Philips Petroleum Company at Bartlesville. Dr. Barclay illustrated how useful such areas can be by pointing out that the Cedar Creek Forest (Minn.) is within 100 miles of 16 colleges.

Dr. Bert W. Lindsay of New Mexico pointed out that the inequality of urban and rural representation patterns in his state made it difficult to get conserva-

tion legislation accomplished. The Federal ownership of one third of New Mexico, increased possibilities for conservation action, he believed.

The panel discussion at the meeting of The Nature Conservancy of August 30 discussed "The Problem of the Southern Prairie Environment." The following points were discussed.

The climate of the area was discussed by Mr. John W. Hamilton of the United States Weather Bureau of Oklahoma City. He pointed out the semi-arid, continental type climatic conditions with temperatures rising to 105° in summer and dropping to -10° in winter. Variations of 30° to 35° in twenty-four hours are common. Rainfall varies from 15" to 30" with a high evaporation rate.

Dr. R. E. Birchard, of Oklahoma State University, discussed the physiography of the area. The rocks of this area slope west, even though the surface slopes the other direction. With a relative light rainfall in western Oklahoma, gypsum and salt beds are found with little solvent action from the rainfall.

Dr. Hulbert, in describing the vegetation of the area, pointed out that the fossils of the grass types are best preserved along the watercourses. He explained that fluctuations in grassland conditions have followed the climatic and geologic change. An adequate study of prairie vegetation would require controlled plots

under three conditions (1) grazing and no fire (2) grazing and fire and (3) no grazing and no fire.

Dr. Bryan P. Glass, of Oklahoma State, in describing the wildlife of the area, pointed out that there were very few indigenous vertebrate species. Most of the vertebrates are on the eastern limits of a western specie, or the western limits of an eastern specie. Some of them are the northern limits of Mexican species. The Indians hunted the area in pre-Columbian times, but did not stay consistently because of the inconstancy of the water supply. Only a few species of small fishes are native to the area.

Dr. Robert E. Bell, University of Oklahoma, gave a summary of pre-Columbian history on the plains. He showed that the Indians had inhabited the high plains before the time of the horse and had followed the game herds, 7000 to 10,000 years ago. There was a long period when no evidence of the bison existed.

Dr. James C. Malin, University of Kansas, summarized the Post-Columbian settlement by showing that the historical changes had brought us to a time within a 400 year span when we no longer actually have a rural-urban culture -- it is now completely metropolitan.

Dr. Adolph Stebler called for an interdisciplinary approach to regional ecologic research. He pointed up the need for tying human problems more closely into all ecologic research.

WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITY

(Continued from page 2)

destroy their wilderness character and atmosphere?

By not acting promptly and effectively, by modifying our effort for some more practical or more exciting reason, by unwillingness to devote all our resources as needed to the effort that is basic to all our future as wilderness preservers, we are running the risk of sacrificing the basis in reality for all our interest in wilderness. It is a sacrifice that would take from us the scientific values of wilderness and also the areas of reference which give meaning to the photographs, the motion pictures, paintings, and literature that inform and inspire us and can continue so to do as long as their basis in reality persists in the

wilderness itself. The frontier values of the picnic grounds and campsites at the end of the road would perish too, and the wilderness meaning of the prospect from many miles of our best roadsides. We would gain a whole world of well-developed outdoor recreation and lose our sole purpose as wilderness preservers.

Our opportunity is indeed perishable — our opportunity to preserve a true living wilderness. We are in danger of doing what we always have done, of continuing to use the wilderness as raw material out of which to fashion a culture that will seem, in our constantly more civilization-conditioned image, to be a "better" world, but one with less and less of its wilderness raw material.

Toward national forests where "multiple use" may everywhere embrace the

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uses that sacrifice wilderness; toward national parks where even the back country will include the roads and accommodations that introduce more and more people to less and less wilderness — toward a beautiful, lovely outdoors where any of us would gladly live on century after century if we could, a marvelous

land, but without wilderness — toward such a destiny we are surely headed if we hesitate and turn aside from the only way that we have yet found toward enduring policies and programs for wilderness preservation. — Howard Zahniser (Reprinted from the June, 1960, Issue of National Parks Magazine)

FALL FASHION NOTE

Appropriately enough, *Nature Conservancy News* appears in its new dress during the Fall season when both man and Nature change their attires. We hope you will like the new format. It was designed to appeal to the eye, as well as to relieve the eye. The old dress was not too attractive to some of us, and the type used was so small that it was quite unreadable to many. The new basic type face is Garamond and the initials for the head are Weiss, an especially beautiful but rare face. The new format was designed by Daniel Millsaps, III, of Allied Business Consultants, Washington, D. C.

Change in attire does not mean change in substance. Your publication remains primarily the news organ of Nature Conservancy's growing family. Because we are expanding — slowly but surely — we

shall need more and better communication channels from local chapters. We urge you to appoint reporters who can regularly send news reports of local events. Only in this way can we at headquarters publish what is going on. Of course, space will not permit extensive reporting of all chapter news at any one time, but we shall try to use all of the news that our space requirements allow.

Let us hear your comments about the new format. After all, this is your news organ. Help us to make it better all the time.

C. J. S. Durham

C. J. S. Durham
Editor